

District Councillors report to 5 January 2021/18 January 2021 Generic report for Debenham Ward Parish

Firstly a big thanks to all of you who have been so generous supplying gifts and delivering to the community over not only the last lock down but the Christmas Period.

Well here we are again with a lock down and we must now be even more vigilant. Cllr Hicks continues to update us on the situation

There is funding available for those on low incomes who have to self isolate. Please refer to the MSDC website. I have no doubt the communities will once again step up to support the most vulnerable.

I cannot advise when the application for Anchor Storage will go to committee but the officer is working on the responses and his report accordingly and I will let you know as soon as I know.

As Chris has already alluded to there is a survey to ask for additional funding for more officers (£15 pa in band D) and they would like to hear the views of the communities over this matter. The survey is on www.suffolk.pcc.gov.uk

Councillors have agreed to lease 11 Market Place Stowmarket to the John Peel Centre which is a major cultural and community activity in our region

Babergh Mid Suffolk are considering cutting the fleets carbon emissions by up to 90% and the cabinets are considering proposals to move vehicle fleet to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil. Further details once approved.

The angel public house owners have put in an application for change of use for the remaining part of the pub DC/20/05595 and I mention this as the community in Debenham has put in an ACV (asset Community Value) application as there is a group who wish to take this on. A decision will be made by 17th February to decide if this can be approved as an ACV. It does not mean the group have purchased it but put in the ACV. I do not now when but the planning application will go to committee. Debenham is key to surrounding villages in our ward and the lack of a public house gives cause for concern for many residents in a thriving community.

The Regal Theatre refurbishments are continuing and it is hoped to be completed early this year.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh has been awarded a million pounds from Government Green Home funding to update many social houses with insulation and renewable heating and so on.

We are now fortunate to have a vaccination centre in Debenham at the Debenham Leisure Centre and all credit to all of them who have made this happen. Light at the end of the tunnel. We must all wait our turn to be called and I know I have received a text to say I must wait till called and not to contact the Surgery. This is such good news.

The bin Collection has missed a few collections due to sickness and breakdown of vehicles but all cleared quickly The garden waste will be suspended for the foreseeable future and payments will be adjusted. Clinical and general waste must be prioritised. I think we must thank all the operatives for their commitment during this pandemic and as a result they received a Lord Lieutenant Special Certificate of Merit for its service to the Community.

Kathie Guthrie District Councillor for Debenham Ward 07889301426

